

### **REMARKS**

This Reply is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed May 14, 2007. Claims 1 to 14 are pending in the present application. Claims 10 to 14 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 to 9 have been amended. No claims have been added. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration by the Examiner and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

#### **Discussion of §112 Rejection of Claim 3**

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The applicants amended claims 2 and 3 by inserting the term “component” after the term “glass” to overcome this rejection.

Claim 1 was amended so that the heating period is -- several seconds to several hours -- instead of “several seconds or several hours”. The support for this amendment is found throughout the application, including the second sentence of the Abstract, and page 6, lines 5 to 9 (corresponding to paragraph [0028] of the Patent Publication US 2005/0104264).

Other amendments to claims 3 to 9 include corrections of informalities.

#### **Discussion of §102(b) Rejections of Claims 1-9**

In Section 3 of the Action, Claims 1-9 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,383,993 (Chatterjee *et al.*).

The invention of the present application as defined by the claims is a method for surface modification of oxide ceramics comprising the step of doping a glass component to a surface of oxide ceramics. The surface of oxide component here is a *glass* component.

Chatterjee discloses a method of making core shell structured articles based on alumina ceramics having spinel surfaces. Chatterjee does not disclose a glass component (which has an amorphous structure) but a spinel structure (which is a crystalline structure). Because there is no disclosure of a glass component in Chatterjee, Chatterjee does not anticipate the claims of the present application.

A withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection is requested respectfully.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested. However, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if there are any remaining issues in this application to be resolved.

A petition for a three-month extension is being filed concurrently herewith. Finally, if there are any additional charges in connection with this response, the Commissioner is authorized hereby to charge the required fee to Deposit Account Number 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,

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